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Vol. III

AVIATION

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Airships as Airplane Carriers

IN the early days of aeronautical development it was repeatedly suggested to combine the features of airships and airplanes in a composite type which would, in theory at any rate, combine the advantages of both types and have some of their respective shortcomings. The airship can carry loads over great distances at moderate speed; the airplane, on the other hand, can carry relatively small loads over rather short distances at the highest speed any vehicle capable of attaining. Hence it was but natural that attempts should have been made in the past to combine the two types.

The difficulty in doing this has been that in combining the advantages of the two types, too, were combined, with no real improvement in either of the fundamental types, because their characteristics were so widely divergent.

By concentrating on airships to carry airplanes as separate units, there would seem to be a much better chance of success. In this case each type would retain its technical individuality, and yet this be efficiently designed for its own sphere of work. The idea of the carrier airship is fundamentally sound, but it involves the solution of some important problems before it can become a reality.

The mechanical details of releasing airplanes from airships, although presenting some novel engineering problems, need not offer serious difficulties. The one really important problem is that of ballast. Many persons apparently assume that weight can be unloaded and loaded on an airship at any time on a seashore. But a seashore automatically disposes of its own weight of water because it floats on the surface, whereas an airship is entirely immersed in the fluid in which it floats. In the latter case there are only three possible methods of maintaining vertical equilibrium, namely, dipping the load (as by ballast); changing the temperature, pressure or quantity of gas; and using aerodynamic reactions.

The last method alone is readily applicable for taking care of ordinary changes in weight or buoyancy except that due to fuel consumption on a long trip. It is mainly for this latter purpose that various ballast recovery systems are being developed. But all present methods seem to break down when applied with respect to concentrating the release of a wide variety of airplanes at sea. This requires one, of course, to be handled by letting out gas, but this reduces the possibility of taking the mistakes on again, because there is no reliable method known of storing or pressuring gas on board.

But why take the planes on and off at all except for refueling, repairs and other special purposes? The carrier ship would then be not so much a carrier of airplanes as of fuel, tools, spare parts, ammunitions and relief pilots. Such

an airship could carry supplies for about five days as many as possible as it could actually accommodate on board.

For naval purposes a further development suggests itself. If the combination of airplanes and airships is good, that of airplanes, seaplanes and seafloaters should still be better. The seafloater is unquestionably the most efficient and economical unit for the mere transporting of loads. For the seafloater furnishes a more mobile and satisfactory base for many tactical operations.

The seafloater need, of course, do most of the actual fighting, reporting back at frequent intervals to the airship, which in turn will have no trouble in replenishing the seafloater occasionally from the airship. In fact there may be several airships, each with its airplanes, operating from the one seafloater.

The term "aircraft carrier" thus becomes in scope to stage the air as well as ships of the sea. While much of the work along such lines is being taken the will of official agencies, a general discussion of its feasibility should easily stimulate activity in both lighter-than-air and heavier-than-air development.

China's Contribution

WHILE complete reports are available with regard to the war attack on the Chinese fleet and its subsequent capture by one of the warring factions, a new chapter will have been written in the history of aerial warfare. While the forces engaged may have been relatively insignificant when compared with the battlefields and arsenals of Western powers, the position of the Chinese is one of the newest developments in aviation.

All military and naval experts predict that the initial contact in a war between East and West fighting powers will occur in the air. Many also predict that the advantage gained by the first air victory will be a dominating factor in the first stages, if not in the actual outcome, of any conflict. This will naturally depend on the aeronautical equipment of the combatants at the outbreak of hostilities.

It is just in this respect that the United States is deficient. It appears to be impossible to impress Congress with the necessity of providing sufficient aeronautical equipment in peace time to make preparation for a war emergency more than a theory. Even were the equipment available, the personnel is lacking.

Now it is obvious that if a country has the best aircraft in the world, but lacks the necessary personnel to operate it, the maximum striking force it should be able to exert will not be available.

If the lesson from the civil war in China impresses the world, as it should, with the ever growing importance of air power and the need of aerial preparedness China will have again contributed to the progress of mankind.



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New Members, Ae. Ch. of C.

The Aeromarine Chamber of Commerce advises that there are the last meeting the following applications for membership have been received.

Standard Oil Company (Indiana), 250 No. Marquette Blvd., Chicago, Ill. Membership selected direct by Aeromarine Chamber of Commerce, and application received for membership in Class B. Recommended by the Chamber of Commerce.

Distillate Forging and Mfg. Company, Elkhart, Ind. Application submitted and recommended by Wright Aeromarine Corporation and recommended by same. Application for

Class B.

The Electro Storage Battery Co., Philadelphia, Pa.—Manufactures storage batteries and other electrical apparatus. Application transmitted and recommended by Detroit Wright Company.

Reserve Aero Mfg. Co., Milwaukee, Wis.—Application submitted direct to Aeromarine Chamber of Commerce. Recommended by Johnson Aircraft & Supply Company, Detroit, Ohio and others. This company requests that its application to have been submitted in January, but through some mistake it did not. It officially requests that the date of submittal be recognized and that it be regarded as a charter or founder member.

Macchayte Co., Kenosha, Wis.—Manufacturers wire and cable. Application transmitted and recommended by Dayton Wright Co.

S. C. Cos., Dallas, Texas.—Representative in Dallas of Cessna Aeroplans & Motor Corp. Recommended by the Chamber of Commerce.

Edwin T. Ellis, The Photospot Co., 45 E. Green Street, Pasadena, Calif.—Operating and serial photographs. Application submitted direct to Chamber of Commerce. Review pending.

F. W. Farns, 2007 No. California Street, Stockton, Calif.—Operating. Application presented to Chamber of Commerce. Recommended by same.

E. S. Frazee, Cessna Aeroplans Co., 81 No. Main St., Compton, Calif.—Operating. Application presented to Chamber of Commerce and recommended by same.

T. Purcell, 46 California Avenue, Rochester, N. Y.—Aeronautical Engineering. Application transmitted to Power Instrument Co.

Floyd L. Kriss, Keler Aviation Co., Lewiston, Idaho.—Operating. Application transmitted and recommended by Foster Russell Aviation Co., Spokane, Washington.

George D. McKey, American Airways, College Point, L. I., N. Y.—Application presented to Chamber of Commerce.

John E. Smith, 2209 South Arkansas Co., Spokane, Washington.—Operating. Application submitted and recommended by Foster Russell Aviation Co., Spokane, Washington.

Jack Treadorff, Keweenaw, Mich.—Operating. Application presented to Chamber of Commerce and recommended by same.

Professor Edward T. Warren, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.—Application presented to Chamber of Commerce and recommended by same.

W. H. Wiley, 575 Paul Street, San Francisco, Calif.—Mr. Wiley is the present operator of the San Francisco and western parts of the United States. He has extensive facilities for overhauling and has flown for a number of years with quite a number of stops, between San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and over the mountains. He is recommended by the Power Instrument Co.'s western representative, and by the Chamber of Commerce. His application is transmitted direct to Chamber of Commerce, 2209 South Arkansas Co., Spokane, Wash.—Distribution and policies. Application presented to Chamber of Commerce.

The Aeromarine Chamber of Commerce of America also advises that it has been selected as a member of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the national organization which includes some 2200 or 1500 commercial and civic organizations throughout the United States.

New Andries Air Sled

In the March 28, 1932, issue of *Aviation* there appeared a description of an air sled built and experimental with assistance by E. J. Andries on Lake St. Clair. This was described as being built of wood, with two propellers and was driven at a speed of about 90 mph by an aero engine.

The accompanying illustration shows an improved type of

air sled with which Mr. Andries has been experimenting in



The new Andries air sled about to start on frozen Lake St. Clair.

Lake St. Clair. This "sled" is considerably faster and more temperate than the first one. The latter was driven with a foot-hair operating a combustion motor while the new model the steamer entered consists of an air cooler only, while the sled is also driven by two engines equipped with rubber bumpers. A sled is also provided to take care of excessive jolts. Andries maintains at the use of a clutch with the 12 to 15 hp. engine. The overall length of the sled is 14 ft.

General Theory of Thin Wing Sections NACA Report No. 142

This report, by Max M. Munk, of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, deals with a new, simple method of calculating the lift of thin wings. The method is based on the assumption that the lift is proportional to the square of the angle of attack, if the air current is not too strong. Two simple integrals are the result. They contain only the coefficient of the wing section. The first integral gives the angle of attack at which the lift of the wing is zero, the second integral gives the moment experienced by the wing when the angle is zero. The two constants thus obtained are sufficient to determine the lift and moment for any other angle of attack. The report provides a table of the lift and moment of thin wings. However, the calculations with the theory of the aerodynamic induction, and with our empirical knowledge of the drag due to friction, the results are valuable for actual wings. A posterior result obtained in the calculations of the aerofoil effect.

The following is an abstract of the subject as treated in this report: I. Introduction. II. Calculations of the aerofoil effect. III. General formulas. IV. The lift coefficient. V. The angle of the zero angle. VI. The moment coefficient. VII. Envelope of the moment coefficient. VIII. Table of the sections investigated.

ARMY AND NAVY AIR NEWS

Air Service

January Measures in the Air Service.—The Secretary of War has informed the Senate of the status of the Army Air Service in the administration of the Army and the operation of the War Department. In a statement to this effect, submitted in connection with the War Secretary's hearing before that committee, the total amount saved by these measures is given as \$40,000,000.00, and the Army Reserve figure is given as \$10,000,000. The measures in the Army Air Service were reflected by introduction of new methods governing the transportation of funds and purchase of supplies, gasoline and oil, reduction in amount of work upon various projects, a more economical policy of purchase in connection with the procurement of types of aircraft, reduction in civilian personnel in the Office of the Chief of Air Service, reorganization of aeronautical sections, etc. It is expected, however, that the reduction of certain activities due to the economy in civilian personnel in the field and by the concentration of equipment and supplies.

Abberdon Flying Grounds.—The first bombing record for the Abberdon Flying Grounds, Md., was made on April 8, when, with 1st Lt. Max F. Mayes, A. S., and Master Sergeant William F. Park, Air Service, as pilot and Capt. S. B. Rybicki, Guidance Department, as observer, a total of seven hits out of eight bombs dropped was recorded. The bombs were dropped from an altitude of 2000 ft. on the "Hard Service" target, a concrete block 200 ft. by 200 ft. The total bomb load carried the target by approximately 2 ft. During the week ending April 8, a total of 2000 lb. of bombs were dropped from the Abberdon C-2 on the "Steel Targets".

A special flight was made at the Abberdon Flying Grounds on April 9 with a Sperry Gyro compass. With J. A. Fox, of the Sperry company, as pilot, the test on the compass, a two-bladed propeller, was flown from Abberdon, Md., to Forest Grove and return to Abberdon. The performance of the compass on this short run was very satisfactory.

A new radio station has been opened at the Abberdon Field, Abberdon Flying Grounds, with an R.C.R. 3000 set as the main operating equipment. A wave length of 300 meters has been assigned for use by the Signal Officer of the 1st Corps Area.

Market Field.—Pilots at Market Field had the pleasure, during the week ending April 13, of watching the little Thomas-Morse Monoplane M-117 make test flights. Lieutenant Frank V. Stanley, Jr., left for Camp Vail, under orders from the Chamber of Commerce, to the purpose of operating with that station in the development and use of radio apparatus. This work will occupy about ten days. The plane which Captain Fisher flew from Market Field was equipped with the most modern type of radio sending apparatus. Market Field was conveniently in touch with Camp Vail by radio telephone during the period of those tests.

As the consequence of the fact that the "Messenger" plane can be readily landed in the extremely restricted areas, 1st Lt. Stanley Longfellow, Jr., with Captain Fisher of Market Field, Jr., New York, on April 13, 1922, experienced minor trouble and was unable to reach the main field. He landed in the hospital grounds, however, without difficulty. There are now three of these "Messenger" planes at Market Field doing development work, and all are making daily flights. Pilots at the station praise very highly the performance of this little ship which is fitted with a 96 hp. three cylinders Lawrence radial engine.

Market Field.—Out of respect to the memory of the late Second Lt. Harry Johnson, A. S. A., a three-ship formation flew over Nevada, Calif., during his funeral services. The details of the route made possible many scenes forever to be held in the memory of his friends. He died on April 10, 1921, after qualifying for the grade of flying ace, and his graduation was made at Market Field, advanced training here, as was recommended in the reserve on January 1922. Mr. Johnson was killed when he lost his grip, falling 350 ft. while doing aerobatics from a plane piloted by M. Kelly, who also died to be a pilot at this field. Pilots of the formation were saluted three—three friends who had been at Market during 1921.



The creation division of Gen. Wu Pei Fu, which effected the capture of the Chinese fleet. The variety of types is remarkable.

Foreign News

Great Britain—According to London newspapers, thirty new air expresses are to be "put on" the London Continental air service this year to cope with the great increase of traffic. The British contribution includes a number of an improved type of twin-engined Handley Page machines, each for twelve passengers. In addition, there will be a fleet of machines built by the DeHaviland Aircraft Co.

A new fleet of 14-seater Goliath airplanes will be operated by a Belgian company between London and Brussels, while the trials of the first of a fleet of four-engined, 25-seater air expresses that one of the French companies is building, are shortly to take place.

The new Handley Page torpedo-carrying airplane, the first machine fully equipped with the variable slot type of wing, recently underwent further test flights at Cricklewood. As soon as the engine was opened up the biplane jumped straight into the air with practically no preliminary run. When the slots were closed it showed a very high speed; when they were opened again the machine slowed down to practically nil and descended vertically on even keel for more than a thousand feet in a space about as big as a tennis court.

What is more important still, it could have flown away again from the same restricted space. The action of this opening and closing wing is similar to the action of a bird's wing when it opens and closes the main feathers for slow landing on a telegraph wire, and when flying from a confined space.

Spain—A daily air mail service was inaugurated between Barcelona, Spain and Palma de Mallorcon, Balearic Islands on March 20, according to a dispatch from Vice Consul O'Hara to the Department of Commerce. The Compania Aero-Maritima Mallorquina, which is exploiting the aerial line has three Machi and two Savoia flying boats ready for service and another in course of construction in Palma, it is reported. These machines carry mail only, but besides them the company has ordered in Italy two twin-engined flying boats with cabin space for six passengers. All the planes will be equipped with radio. Two hangars and a repair shop have been erected at Palma and plans for the construction of a large and modern factory have been made.

Only a mail service is operated so far, with a plane leaving Palma between 9 and 10 in the morning and leaving Barcelona at three in the afternoon. It is expected that the trip will be made in 1 hr. 15 min. each way, which will be a decided improvement in inter-insular communication facilities and should be a great benefit to commercial interests. After the arrival of the first plane from Palma in Barcelona on March 21, however, the Spanish government directed that no more flights be made until arrangements for inspection by governmental officials could be made. This will soon be effected it is said.

Mexico—Trade Commissioner P. L. Bell at Mexico City has sent to the Automotive Division, Department of Commerce, a translation of a permit recently conceded by the Mexican Ministry of Communications and Public Works to the representative of the Cia. Mexicana de Transportes Aerea, S. A., for the establishment of an airplane service between Mexico City and points in the States of Vera Cruz and Tamaulipas. In view of similar permits ready to be granted in the near future, this one may be taken as a very good example of what parties interested in the development of commercial aviation in Mexico may expect in the way of Government permits and their conditions. It should be noted, furthermore, that this permit is not an exclusive one and does not carry the usual features of the old-time "concession."

Honduras—The Young Men's Club, which is interested in the advance of aviation in the country, is about to order airplanes from Italy for the equipment of the first Honduran school of aviation.



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